

Washington, DC - Today, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) highlighted the Country Fresh Market in Whittier, California as an example of a successful small business at the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee Hearing on “National Small Business Week: Small Business Success Stories.” Below are her remarks:

Good Afternoon. I would like to commend the Small Business Committee for holding a hearing to recognize the immeasurable contribution of small businesses to our economy and our communities.

Since the founding of America, small businesses have played a major role in our economic strength and progress. The approximately 23 million small businesses in the U.S. employ more than half of the country’s private work force, create three out of every four new jobs, and generate most of America’s business innovations.

Small businesses are an enduring symbol of the American Dream. Let me give you an example, five years ago, Devon and Peter Jimenez, a young couple, in my district had an idea to open a grocery store in the City of Whittier, California. They wanted to create a store that specialized in fresh, ready to prepare Hispanic foods in the historic district. Five years later, Country Fresh Market has built a thriving business and established a niche in the grocery retail market. In fact, they have posted double-digit gains since 2002 – despite the economic downturn. Country Fresh Market was even highlighted on the National Food Network.

Country Fresh Market is not only a business success story, but also an important contributor to the community. They have worked with the local Boys and Girls Club and YMCA’s Annual Pancake Breakfast. Since its inception, Country Fresh Market has also helped four employees graduate from college and helped many of its employees purchase homes. Country Fresh Market prides itself in its employees’ success, because its employees are its “familia” (family).

As members of the small business community, we need to help businesses across this country find similar success, whether it’s through targeted tax breaks, access to capital or the elimination federal regulations.

Today we honor small businesses, like Country Fresh Market. We must continue to keep the entrepreneurial spirit alive and well for&today and for future generations.

Thank You.